IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please amend the two paragraphs at page 10, lines 1 to 13, as follows:

FIG. 10B is a partially cut away plan view of the automatic bar code reading device of FIG. [[10]] 10A, showing various operative components thereof;

FIG. 10C is a partially cut away plan view of an alternative embodiment of the automatic bar code symbol reading device of the present invention showing the layout of the optical signal processing system in which both laser return light and IR return energy are collected through common optics within the hand-holdable housing, and detected using a single photoreceiver and common signal processing circuitry. FIG. [[10C]] 10D is schematic diagram representative of the optical signal processing system employed in the bar code symbol reading device of the second illustrative embodiment shown in FIG. [[10]] 10C.

Please amend the paragraph at page 42, lines 3-19, as follows:

As illustrated in FIGS. ~~10 and~~ 10A and 10B, the geometrical characteristics of the object detection field provided in bar code reading device 2' is substantially wider in three-dimensional space that is shown in FIGS. ~~3 and~~ 3A and 3B, while the geometry of the scan field is essentially

the same. The reason for the difference in geometry and dimensions of the object detection field in the second illustrative embodiment is attributed to the fact that reflected IR object sensing energy (emitted from centrally disposed IR LED 28) is permitted to pass through IR transparent window 69 and be collected within the head portion of the housing using the same optics employed in the collection of reflected laser light from the scan field. While the width dimensions of the scan field are essentially equal to the width dimensions of the object detection field in this embodiment, the object detection field represented in ~~FIG.~~ FIGS. 10A and 10B has been illustrated slightly narrower strictly for purposes of clarity in exposition.

Please amend the paragraph at page 43, line 30, to page 44, line 34, as follows:

In ~~FIG.~~ FIGS. 10A and 10B, the optical arrangement of the system components for the ~~second~~ illustrative embodiment is shown. Specifically, visible laser diode 47 is mounted in the rear corner of circuit board 75, installed within the head portion of the housing. A stationary concave mirror 76 is mounted controlling at the first end of the circuit board, for primarily collecting laser light. Notably, the height of concave mirror 76 is such as not to block transmission aperture 6. Mounted off center onto the surface of concave mirror 76, is a very small second mirror 77 for directing incident laser beam from laser diode 47 to polygonal mirror 71 which is connected to the shaft of scanning motor 72, for joint rotational movement therewith. As shown, scanning motor 72 is mounted centrally at the rear end portion of the circuit board. In the opposite rear corner of the circuit board, photoreceiver 54 and IR detecting photodiode 31 are

mounted in a contiguous manner as shown. In front of photoreceiver diode 54 and essentially along the optical axis of concave mirror 76, an optical element 78, such as a concave lens, can be provided to assist concave mirror 76 in focusing collected laser return light onto the photoreceiver. If necessary, lens 78 can be treated so as to filter out IR energy collected through the collection optics of the system. In addition, focusing lens 30 can be mounted in front of IR detecting photodiode 31 to assist concave mirror in focussing collected IR light onto IR diode photodiode 34.

Please amend the paragraph at page 45, line 26, to page 46, line 20, as follows:

In FIGS. ~~10B and~~ 10C and 10D, an alternative optical signal collection and processing arrangement for automatic bar code symbol reader 2' is shown. Notably, similar structure or elements shown in FIGS. 10A through [[10C]] 10D are indicated both by like reference numbers. According to this alternative embodiment, during time intervals determined by the system controller (as indicated in FIGS. 12A and 12B), IR return energy and laser return light from the object detection and scan fields, respectively, will each be (i) passed through wavelength selective transmission window 110; (ii) collected through common optical elements 71 and 76; (iii) passed through wavelength selective optical filter system 111; (iv) focused by focusing lens 112; (v) detected by photoreceiver 54; and subsequently converted and amplified by current-to-voltage amplifier 113 and preamplifier 114. Using a laser beam having a wavelength of about 670 nanometers and IR object sensing energy of about 940 nanometers, the wavelength

transmission characteristics of transmission window 110 and optical filter system 112 will be selected so as to effectively produce two narrow pass-bands for transmission of IR return energy and laser return light to photoreceiver 54. The first narrowpass band will be centered about 940 nanometers for IR return energy, whereas the second narrow pass-band will be centered about 670 nanometers for laser return light. In an illustrative embodiment, optical filter system 111 can be realized by one or more dielectric or other type filters, the nature of which is well known in the art.